WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A positive electrode active material containing a compound represented by the general formula $Li_xMn_yFe_{1-y}PO_4$, where $0 < x \leq 2$ and $0.5 < y < 0.95$.

2. The positive electrode active material according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the $Li_xMn_yFe_{1-y}PO_4$ has a grain size not larger than 10 μm, with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than 0.5 m^2/g.

3. A positive electrode active material containing a compound represented by the general formula $Li_xMn_yFe_zA_{1-(y+z)}PO_4$, where $0 < x \leq 2$, $0.5 < y < 0.95$, $0.5 < y+z < 1$ and A is at least one metal element selected from Ti and Ag.

4. The positive electrode active material according to claim 3 wherein a portion of the $Li_xMn_yFe_zA_{1-(y+z)}PO_4$ has a grain size not larger than 10 μm, with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than 0.5 m^2/g.

5. A non-aqueous electrolyte cell comprising:

a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;

a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and

an electrolyte interposed between said positive and negative electrodes; wherein said positive electrode active material contains a compound represented by the general formula $Li_xMn_yFe_{1-y}PO_4$ where $0 < x \leq 2$ and $0.5 < y < 0.95$.

6. The positive electrode active material according to claim 5 wherein a portion of the $Li_xMn_yFe_{1-y}PO_4$ has a grain size not larger than 10 μm, with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than 0.5 m^2/g.

7. A non-aqueous electrolyte cell comprising:

a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;

a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and

an electrolyte interposed between said positive and negative electrodes; wherein

said positive electrode active material contains a compound represented by the general formula $Li_xMn_yFe_zA_{1-(y+z)}PO_4$ where $0 < x \leq 2$, $0.5 < y < 0.95$ and $0.5 < y+z < 1$ and wherein A is at least one metal element selected from Ti and Mg.

8. The non-aqueous electrolyte cell according to claim 7 wherein a portion of the $Li_xMn_yFe_zA_{1-(y+z)}PO_4$ has a grain size not larger than 10 μm, with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than 0.5 m^2/g.

9. A positive electrode active material containing a compound represented by the general formula $Li_xMn_yB_{1-y}PO_4$, where $0 < x \leq 2$ and $0 < y < 1$ and wherein B is a metal element selected from among Ti, Zn, Mg and Co.

10. The positive electrode active material according to claim 9 wherein a portion of the $Li_xMn_yB_{1-y}PO_4$ has a grain size not larger than 10 μm, with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than 0.5 m^2/g.

11. A positive electrode active material containing a compound represented by the general formula $Li_xMn_yB_{1-y}PO_4$, where $0 < x \leq 2$ and $0 < y < 1$ and wherein B denotes plural metal elements selected from among Ti, Fe, Zn, Mg and Co.

12. The positive electrode active material according to claim 11 wherein a portion of the $Li_xMn_yB_{1-y}PO_4$ has a grain size not larger than 10 μm, with the Bulnauer Emmet

Taylor specific surface area being not less than 0.5 m^2/g.

13. A non-aqueous electrolyte cell comprising:

a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;

a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and

an electrolyte interposed between said positive and negative electrodes; wherein

said positive electrode active material contains a compound represented by the general formula $Li_xMn_yB_{1-y}PO_4$ where $0 < x \leq 2$ and $0 < y < 1$ and wherein B denotes one metal element selected from among Ti, Zn, Mg and Co.

14. The non-aqueous electrolyte cell according to claim 13 wherein a portion of the $Li_xMn_yB_{1-y}PO_4$ has a grain size not larger than 10 μm, with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than 0.5 m^2/g.

15. A non-aqueous electrolyte cell comprising:

a positive electrode containing a positive electrode active material;

a negative electrode containing a negative electrode active material; and

an electrolyte interposed between said positive and negative electrodes; wherein

said positive electrode active material contains a compound represented by the general formula $Li_xMn_yB_{1-y}PO_4$ where $0 < x \leq 2$ and $0 < y < 1$ and wherein B denotes plural metal elements selected from among Ti, Fe, Zn, Mg and Co.

16. The non-aqueous electrolyte cell according to claim 15 wherein a portion of the $Li_xMn_yFe_{1-y}PO_4$ has a grain size not larger than 10 μm, with the Bulnauer Emmet Taylor specific surface area being not less than 0.5 m^2/g.